

SEP 7 1982

DOCKET NO: 70-820

FACILITY: UNC Recovery Systems (UNC)
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT APPLICATION
DATED APRIL 28, 1982, RE MODIFICATION OF SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS
FOR 500,000-GALLON STORAGE TANK AND REPLACEMENT OF WELLS A
AND 11, 07000820030S

Background

Condition No. 24 of SNM-777 requires monthly sampling of the leak detection system under the 500,000-gallon storage tank liner. The liner has been cut to facilitate decontamination of materials below the tank which is being decommissioned. UNC requests that the monthly sampling requirement be eliminated.

Well A was destroyed during construction of facilities to process lagoon materials. Well 11 was destroyed during decommissioning of underground pipes associated with the 500,000-gallon tank. Condition No. 22 of SNM-777 requires that wells be replaced within one year if water samples are not available. UNC requests that the requirement to replace these two wells be eliminated.

Discussion

UNC cut the top liner during the decommissioning of the 500,000-gallon tank to assess potential contamination of materials between the two liners. Any liquids in the leak detection system should be from decommissioning activities. Any liquids found in the pipe will be pumped to the evaporator for volume reduction.

In a telephone discussion of this amendment on August 25, 1982, Mr. K. Helgeson reported that the bottom liner had been punctured to permit core sampling below the tank. Moreover, rainwater was leaking into the tank. The staff believes that the water in the leak detection system should be collected and analyzed until the tank has been decommissioned. Mr. Helgeson said smear surveys indicated that the tank had been decontaminated to acceptable levels. Analyses of material between the liners and below the two liners had not been received from the vendor.

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Wells A and 11 are not in the plume of contaminated groundwater on the UNC site. Major sources of potential groundwater contamination have been removed from the lagoons, the 500,000-gallon tank, and the process building. As shown in the drawing attached to the UNC letter, other active wells are located near the two former well locations.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The staff finds that the proposed amendment to delete the requirement to replace Wells A and 11 would have no adverse effects on the public health and safety or on the environment. Approval of the amendment application concerning the two wells is recommended. Licensing action on the leak detection sampling requirement should be deferred until the decommissioning is completed.

The State of Rhode Island was notified of this proposed action on August 31, 1982, by W. T. Crow.

Original signed by
George H. Bidinger

G. H. Bidinger
Uranium Process Licensing Section
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
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Original Signed By:
W. T. Crow

Approved by: W. T. Crow, Section Leader

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